

MINUTES OF THE APRIL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE ARIZONA NATURAL RESOURCES REVIEW COUNCIL

Date: April 2, 2013 1:00-4:30pm
Location: Governor's Executive Tower
3rd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

1. Call to Order- Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Sandy Fabritz-Whitney opened the meeting and assumed the Chair for Larry Voyles since he would not be attending. Council members present included:

- AZ Department of Transportation (ADOT) – Floyd Roehrich
- AZ State Land Department (ASLD) – Vanessa Hickman
- AZ Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) – Henry Darwin
- AZ Department of Water Resources (ADWR) – Sandy Fabritz-Whitney
- AZ State Forester (ASF)– Scott Hunt;
- AZ Geological Survey (AGS)– Lee Allison
- AZ State Parks (ASP)– Bryan Martin
- AZ Department of Agriculture (ADA)– Don Butler

Support to Council

- Governor's Office- Kevin Kinsall and Jill Hall
- AGFD Staff– Bob Broscheid, Tim Wade, Mary Broniarczyk

Several agency staff and members of the public were also in attendance.

2. Review Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda with the Council and added a Call to the Public as the last item on the agenda.

3. Review Status of Subcommittee Progress

The Council was provided a status update on Subcommittee progress. The following Subcommittee updates were provided:

Geographic Information System Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Lee Allison distributed a draft charter and scope of work for the Council and Subcommittee members to review and comment. The Council was asked to provide comments on the Draft Scope of Work directly to Mr. Allison.

Planning Subcommittee

Mr. Broscheid explained that the Subcommittee has not had a meeting yet, but that dates have been identified for the near future. In preparation for the meeting, AGFD accessed their document database which displayed approximately 466 individual federal actions this year alone. The Council mentioned that there may be some overlap

with the deliverables of this Subcommittee and the GIS and Clearinghouse Subcommittees.

Mitigation and Conservation Banking Subcommittee Update

Mr. Broscheid informed the Council that the Subcommittee held a Conference call on April 1, 2013 to discuss the charge and expected deliverables. The Subcommittee divided the deliverables into 2 processes: (1.) Identifying the Program and its components, and (2.) accompanying legislation. AGFD assembled an internal Team to begin identifying the broad banking concept proposal for the Program as well as considering current federal mitigation/conservation banking program requirements. Once drafted, AGFD will share with the Subcommittee to review for consistency with Council expectations and individual agency statutory responsibilities and authorities. The Subcommittee will perform the analysis of draft proposal to identify any and all legal or regulatory shortcomings. Some legal analysis will need to occur with regard to State Trust land participation in such programs. Mr. Roehrich indicated his desire to represent ADOT on this Subcommittee.

Clearinghouse Subcommittee Update

Mr. Broscheid (Chair) briefed the Council that a conference call was held on April 1, 2013 to discuss the background and charge of the Subcommittee. AGFD prepared and distributed a State Clearinghouse Briefing Document (handout provided) for review and discussion with the Subcommittee members. At this preliminary stage, the Subcommittee concluded that the States of Florida, Nevada and Arkansas currently have most of the desired components expressed by the Council, but will require further in-depth analysis. The Subcommittee Chair prepared a Draft Work Plan for the Council's review and comment (handout provided). Based on the Council's review, the Subcommittee will review and discuss the Draft Work Plan at its next meeting. AGFD will also take the lead in preparing a list of survey questions for Subcommittee members to follow up with Florida, Nevada and Arkansas.

ACTION ITEM: The Chairs of each of the Subcommittees will provide the dates of all future Subcommittee meetings to the Council members.

4. Presentations on State Agency Priority Emphasis Areas

The following agencies presented information on their respective priority emphasis areas:

Mr. Scott Hunt (ASF) presented the 2010 Arizona Forest Action Plan and provided a brief explanation of the priority map and how they utilized existing priorities of other state agencies. The Plan is available online, and Mr. Hunt will send the website link to the council.

Mr. Floyd Roehrich (ADOT) presented the 5-Year Transportation Plan improvement program as the agency's priorities. This plan is available on the website for review. Since funding is an issue, the agency is forced to scale back expansion of the transportation system, and focus on preservation of the current transportation system.

Mr. Don Butler (ADA) presented the Livestock Crop and Protection Program as the agency's priority areas. The Program assists ranchers and farmers in improving their lands. Agencies such as AGFD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service continue to contribute to the Program. This Council can also help in ensuring the state agencies are working together to accomplish mutual priorities.

Mr. Bob Broscheid (AGFD) provided a presentation on the agency's Species and Habitat Conservation Guide or HabiMap. HabiMap is a user-friendly, web-based viewer that is intended to help coordination and communication of wildlife priority areas statewide. By ensuring that data is consistent and available, agencies and project planners can consider over 300 layers of wildlife data early in the planning process.

Mr. Lee Allison (AGS) is currently digitizing paper records of historical mining documents and accessing the National Geothermal Data System to ensure linkage into fully recognized digital data system networks. AGS is working with several outside sources to access current and historical data in order to create one compatible system of data.

Ms. Sandy Fabritz-Whitney (ADWR) explained that the agency is currently developing a long-range plan for the identification and protection of additional water supplies. This Strategy will evaluate long-term water supply augmentation (i.e., new or not previously identified water). The draft plan will provide an overview of the realm of the possible, and not be regulatory in nature.

Ms. Vanessa Hickman (ASLD) presented the 5-Year Disposition Plan as the agency's priority emphasis document. This Plan was updated a few years ago to evaluate the near, mid-, and long-term value of State Trust lands. The agency is looking at updating the plan because there has been an uptick in the market. ASLD sold \$430 million in State Trust land this year, and some lands were sold for higher than the appraised value.

Mr. Henry Darwin (ADEQ) identified that the agency's goals are aimed at improving air and water quality over the next five years. The agency has never completed an evaluation of whether the strategies being currently used are effective. ADEQ managers will be tasked with developing strategies on how to achieve those goals. The agency is very close to finding that Maricopa County is in attainment with PM10.

Mr. Bryan Martin (ASP) indicated that all state parks are open and ASP's continued focus is on modeling its approaches consistent with business strategies. ASP hired a consultant to help identify a single concessionaire partner to perform various agency duties.

5. Identify Expectations and Timeline of Dates to Inform Council Activities Council

Mr. Broscheid provided a handout of the draft timeline that includes major milestones associated with the Council's charge. Depending on the products of the four Subcommittees, the timeline includes dates for agency budgets and draft legislation to be submitted (Sept 2013) and the start of the Legislative session (January 2014). At this time, the Mitigation/Conservation Banking Subcommittee is anticipated to include recommendations for legislation. Mr. Broscheid also identified the need to include agency, legislative and public outreach if such legislation is necessary. These milestones require the Mitigation/Conservation Banking Subcommittee to have products for review by the

Council in July (review) and August (approve) in order to submit to the Governor's Office by September. The Mitigation/Conservation Banking Subcommittee will identify all potential stakeholders associated with the program (e.g., Industry, Lessees, legislators, etc.).

6. Wrap-Up and Review Action Items

Future Action Items:

- a. Presentation by ASLD on the 5-Year Disposition Plan
- b. Review of Draft Work Plans of all four subcommittees

The Council agreed that the Subcommittees need to do some more work before any decision is made by the Council on the plans.

7. Call to the public

Tim Wade (AGFD) asked if ADEQ was seeking delegation of authority for Clean Water Act 404 permitting authority. Mr. Darwin explained that ADEQ is simply gathering information at this time and that no decisions have been made on that issue. Mr. Wade also asked if ADA would be interested in helping assist in determining appropriate mitigation for the loss of farm lands. Mr. Butler responded that he sees value and would be interested.

Mr. Bas Aja (Arizona Cattlegrowers Association) stated that he feels this Council should recognize the value of farmlands and not place values individually on the resources of those farmlands.

8. The Council **adjourned at 3:00pm.**

Minutes prepared by:

Mary Broniarczyk and Bob Broscheid, Arizona Game and Fish Department